

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6961

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EAID, CG, US

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL SECTOR STUDY

REF: STATE 057283

1. MISSION STRONGLY FAVORS PROPOSED SECTOR STUDY. WE SEE MAJOR PURPOSE OF STUDY TO GIVE GOZ DECISION MAKERS AND THEIR ADVISORS (AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION COMMITTEE, SERVICE DU PLAN, AG DEPARTMENT BUREAU D'ETUDES, ETC.) (A) AS IDENTIFICATION OF PROBLEMS AND CONSTRAINTS TO DEVELOPMENT OF AG SECTOR (B) A PLAN OF ACTION INCLUDING RANK ORDERING OF ACTIONABLE PROJECTS AND (C) A PROPOSED STRATEGY FOR PULLING TOGETHER THE RESOURCES NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT IDENTIFIED PROJECTS. FOOD PRODUCTION WILL BE ONE IMPORTANT FOCUS, BUT STUDY MUST ALSO INCLUDE CLOSE ANALYSIS OF EXPORT AND INDUSTRIAL CROP SUBSECTORS.

2. MISSION WISHES TO UNDERSCORE ITS TWO MAJOR CONCERNS. FIRST, PLAN MUST BE ACTION-ORIENTED AND BE SEEN AND USED BY THE GOZ AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES AS A TOOL TO GUIDE AG PRODUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT. SECONDLY, WE WOULD HOPE TO AVOID GIVING IMPRESSION THAT OUR SUPPORT OF STUDY IMPLIES OUR WILLINGNESS TO FINANCE ITS TOTAL IMPLEMENTATION. WE BELIEVE THESE CONCERNS CAN BEST BE CONTROLLED BY MANNER IN WHICH STUDY IS PROPOSED AND STRUCTURED. IT MUST BE EVIDENT FROM THE EARLIEST DISCUSSIONS THAT WE HAVE IN

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FACT ELICTED DIRECT HIGH-LEVEL GOZ

INTEREST AND SUPPORT. THE STABILIZATION COMMITTEE, THE PLANNING OFFICES OF THE PRESIDENCY, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE MUST BE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN THE ENTIRE STUDY EFFORT. EQUALLY AS IMPORTANT, WE MUST STRUCTURE THE STUDY IN A MANNER WHICH GIVES A MEANINGFUL ROLE TO REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER DONOR AGENCIES AND NATIONS.

3. GOZ AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PRICING POLICY AND THE ROLE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR ARE CRUCIAL AREAS AND WILL RECEIVE CORRESPONDINGLY IMPORTANT TREATMENT IN THE ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. HOWEVER, CONSIDERING OUR CONCERN TO MAKE THIS AN ACTION-ORIENTED PROGRAM WITH A FORESEEABLE AND TANGIBLE PAY-OFF, WE PROPOSE A STRONG THRUST OF THE STUDY BE DIRECTED TOWARD INCREASING THE ROLE OF AGRO-BUSINESS ENTERPRISES IN EITHER ON-GOING OR FUTURE PROJECTS WITH AN EARLY START DATE. NOW THAT GOZ RETURNING MUCH OF PREVIOUSLY NATIONALIZED ENTERPRISES TO PRIVATE SECTOR AND INVITING FOREIGNERS TO RETURN, IT APPEARS IMPORTANT TO HELP THIS SECTOR REGAIN AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ZAIRE, HOPEFULLY IN COOPERATING WITH AMERICAN PRIVATE ENTERPRISES.

4. THE MISSION PROPOSES THE FOLLOWING SCHEMA FOR STUDY IMPLEMENTATION:

A. AMBASSADOR WILL, AT AN EARLY DATE, DISCUSS THE PROPOSED STUDY AT HIGHEST GOZ LEVELS INDICATING THAT IT IS QUICK AND FAVORABLE U.S. RESPONSE TO CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN ROBINSON/BISENGIMANA DISCUSSIONS, AND STRESSING ITS VALUE AS AN ACTION PROGRAM AND A DEVELOPMENTAL TOOL.

B. IF GOZ AS INTERESTED AS WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE, USAID WILL REQUEST EARLY TDY TO KINSHASA, FROM REGIONAL PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUNDS, OF A TWO-MAN TEAM TO DEVELOP SCOPE OF WORK, DESIGN STRUCTURE FOR CONDUCT OF STUDY PROPER AS WELL AS ASSESS EXPERTISE AND TIME REQUIRED. DESIGN TEAM SHOULD REVIEW THOROUGHLY THE CONSIDERABLE LITERATURE ON ZAIRE AGRICULTURE AVAILABLE WASHINGTON AND BRUSSELS BEFORE DEPARTURE AND CONTINUE THIS REVIEW ON ARRIVAL. ESTIMATED TIME REQUIRED FOR DESIGN TEAM MINIMUM THREE WEEKS, DESIGN EFFORT WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH MISSION, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOZ, AND OTHER DONOR STAFF. TEAM WILL COMPLETE DRAFT DESIGN BEFORE DEPARTURE KINSHASA AND PRESENT FINAL DESIGN NLT ONE MONTH FOLLOWING COMPLETION TDY.

C. OBVIOUSLY, IF WE WAIT FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE FINAL STUDY, IN ALL ITS ASPECTS, WE COULD NOT PRESENT THE FINDINGS TO THE GOZ BEFORE JUNE OF 1977. GIVEN THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS FACED BY ZAIRE, WE BELIEVE THAT THE

DESIGN EFFORT SUGGESTED IN PARA (B) ABOVE SHOULD
TAKE INTO ACCOUNT A TWO TRACK APPROACH:

(A) SHORT RANGE, INDEED IMMEDIATELY ACTIONABLE PROJECTS
AND POLICY CHANGES AND (2) LONGER TERM DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
AND POLICIES WHICH ADDRESS THE BASIC IMBALANCE IN THE
AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE. AN EXAMPLE
OF THE FIRST SET OF PROJECTS WOULD BE A RANGE OF FOOD
PRODUCTIONS INITIATIVES TO SUPPLY URBAN CENTRA ASAP
AND AN EXAMPLE OF THE SECOND SET WOULD BE MAJOR RE-SHAPING
OF EXPORT CROP SECTOR OVER TIME. IN BOTH CASES, HOWEVER,
THE PLAN WE HELP PRODUCE MUST GIVE ADVICE ON HOW THE
PROJECTS CAN BE IMPLEMENTED (E.G. REQUIRED LOCAL RE-
SOURCES, REQUIREMENTS FROM OTHER DONORS AND IN THE CASE
OF AGRI-BUSINESS, ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PACKAGES)--AND THUS
THE DESIGN EFFORT SHOULD TAKE THESE ASPECTS INTO ACCOUNT
AS WELL.

5. MISSION OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS BEST WAY TO OBTAIN U.S.
INPUT BUT LEANS TO CONTRACT WITH REPUTABLE FIRM EX-
PERIENCED IN THIS FIELD. REGARDLESS OF SOURCE, MISSION
WILL EXERCISE FIRM CONTROL OVER SELECTION OF TEAM PERSONNEL.
HIGH STANDARDS OF TECHNICAL COMPETENCE, EXPERIENCE, RE-
PUTATION, AND FRENCH SPEAKING ABILITY WILL BE MAINTAINED.

6 CP PROJECT SHEET BEING SENT SEPTTEL.
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